



Town of Arlington Health & Human Services

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Arlington Ebola Response and Preparedness

ARLINGTON - The Arlington Department of Health and Human Services is working with the Arlington Police and Fire Departments to prepare for any potential cases of Ebola in Arlington.

The threat of an Ebola Virus outbreak in Arlington is low, but Arlington is prepared to handle any cases that may arise. Arlington has detailed plans to handle all hazards including infectious disease emergencies such as Ebola.

The following steps have been taken over the past few months by the Town of Arlington to prepare for potential cases of Ebola:

- The Health, Fire and Police Departments have been participating in regular conference calls with state and federal partners for guidance and status updates on Ebola since August.
- Emergency 911 Dispatchers have been trained to screen all calls prior to an ambulance arriving at a home.
- Policies have been developed and training provided to limit emergency responder exposure to potential cases including protective gear as required by the Centers for Disease Control.

The Health Department works every day to prevent the spread of infectious disease in Arlington. There are stringent public health laws in Massachusetts that mandate immediate reporting of infectious diseases to local health departments.

In Arlington each case is investigated and measures are taken to prevent the further spread of disease. If a case of Ebola is confirmed in Arlington, plans are in place to quarantine and monitor contacts of a confirmed patient. Ebola is spread through close contact with body fluid from a person who has Ebola and is symptomatic. At this time, only persons that have been in direct contact with a person who has Ebola is at risk.

For more information please visit: www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola